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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /105 W
----------100290 250004Z /14
R 241154Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7439
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2351

NAIROBI FOR AMBASSADOR BERGUS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, SHUM, SU
SUBJ: RECONCILIATION CONTINUES

REF: KHARTOUM 1680

1. SADIQ AL-MAHDI, ERSTWHILE OPPOSITION LEADER, LEFT KHARTOUM FOR LONDON ON MAY 22 IN RESPONSE TO TERSE CABLE FROM AIDE OMAR ABDIN, WHO HAD DEPARTED ON MAY 12 ON MISSION TO FACILITATE RETURN OF ANSAR FROM LIBYA. ANSAR ARE APRA-MILITARY WING OF MAHDIST SECT AND SEVERAL THOUSAND REMAIN ENCAMPED IN GBFI AND ETHIOPIA. SADIQ'S ABSENCE FROM KHAR-

TOUM CONVENIENTLY SOLVES POSSIBLE PROBLEM FOR HIM POSED BY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF NIMEIRI'S REVOLUTION. WERE SADIQ STILL IN KHARTOUM, HE MIGHT BE OBLIGED TO PARTICIPATE IN CEREMONIES HONORING ACCESSION TO POWER OF NIMEIRI REGIME AND
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THIS MAY HAVE BEEN STILL TOO MUCH FOR HIM TO DO. PURPOSE AND DURATION OF SADIQ'S TRIP IS UNKNOWN.

2. SHARIF HUSSEIN AL-HINDI, FORMER NATIONAL UNION PARTY LEADER AND SECOND OF TRIUMVIRATE WHICH LED VIOLENT OPPOSITION TO NIMEIRI BEFORE RECONCILIATION, VISITED SUDANESE EMBASSY IN LONDON RECENTLY TO INDICATE TO SECURITY

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OFFICER THAT HE MAY BE WILLING TO RETURN TO SUDAN AFTER ALL. HIS DELAY IN COMING BACK TO KHARTOUM AFTER SIGNING PUBLIC RECONCILIATION AGREEMENT APRIL 12 (REFTEL) HAD GIVEN RISE TO SPECULATION THAT HINDI HAD COLD FEET AGAIN. SECURITY OFFICER TELEPHONED CHIEF OF NATIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION (NSO) IN KHARTOUM TO REPORT THAT HINDI INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET AGAIN WITH CHIEF OF NSO, GO-BETWEEN FATH AL-RAHMAZEBASHIR, OR DR. BAHA AL DIN MOHAMED IDRIS, MINISTER FOR THE PRESIDENCY. ATTITUDE AMONG SUDANGOV OFFICIALS IN KHARTOUM IS ONE OF NONCHALANCE. HINDI HAS CRIED WOLF TOO OFTEN BEFORE.

3. THIRD FORMER CO-CHAIRMAN OF OPPOSITION NATIONAL FRONT IS DR. HASSAN AL-TURABI, MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD LEADER. AL-TURABI APPLIED FOR VISA TO ATTEND BLACK MUSLIM GATHERING IN

SAN FRANCISCO AND THUS MAY ALSO BE OUT OF TOWN DURING CELEBRATION OF NIMEIRI'S REVOLUTION.

4. ON OTHER RECONCILIATION ACTIVITIES, SUDAN GOV

ANNOUNCED THAT DRAFT BILLS MAKING BASIC AMENDMENTS TO STATE SECURITY ACT AND POLITICAL RIGHTS ACT HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL. ACCORDING SUNA, VICE PRESIDENT ABUL GASSIM ON MAY 23 GOT 150-MINUTE BRIEFING ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION WHICH AIMS AT RESCINDING EXCEPTIONAL AMEND-
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MENTS INSERTED IN CONSTITUTION FOLLOWING JULY 1971 COUP

ATTEMPT. NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS PROPOSED BILLS BEFORE SUBMISSION TO NIMEIRI FOR SIGNATURE.SUDAN SOCIALIST UNION POLITBURO HAS BEEN MEETING TO CONSIDER REFORMS IN SSU ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES, ANOTHER CONCES-SION TO RETURNEES WHO DEMANDED "DEMOCRATIZATION" OF SSU.

5. COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED FOR THIS PURPOSE RECOMMENDED EMPLOYMENT OF EIGHT DISMISSED JOURNALISTS ON MAY 19, DEMONSTRATING CONTINUED FURNCTION OF RECONCILIATION COM-MITTEES HANDLING CLAIMS OF RETURNEES AND RELEASED PRISONERS.

6. COMMENT: IT WAS JUST YEAR AGO AT NIMEIRI'S SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS THAT FIRST PUBLIC HINTS OF RECONCILIATION WERE MADE. SINCE THEN NIMEIRI HAS BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL THEN HE MAY HAVE EXPECTED, BUT PROCESS STILL NOT COMPLETE. INTERESTING THAT PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION LEADERS, EVEN AFTER HAVING RETURNED TO KHARTOUM, SEEM TO WISH TO AVOID PUBLIC CEREMONIES OF MAY REVOLUTION CELEBRATIONS, OCCASIONS AT WHICH NATIONAL UNITY, RECONCILIATION AND NIMEIRI REGIME WILL BE PRAISED. PERHAPS, MORE SIGNIFI-

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CANTLY, HOWEVER, LESS GLAMOROUS WORK OF RECONCILIATION CONTINUING AS NITTY-GRITTY OF COMPENSATION CLAIMS, REIN-STATEMENTS AND REVISION OF STATUES PROCEEDS EVEN AFTER NOVELTY OF RECONCILIATION HAS PASSED.
BOGOSIAN

NOTE BY OC/T: PARA. 1., LINE 6 AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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